

## CHAPTER 7: RECOMMENDATIONS

### OVERVIEW

The recommendations that are included in this section have been organized to respond to the goals and objectives summarized in Chapter 4. These recommendations are intended to:

- establish a structure by which park facilities can be developed with a consistent level of quality yet allow for flexibility and variation at the master planning level for each park unit;
- set the appropriate number of parks, by classification, that will be required by the year 2025 in order to meet LOS targets;
- identify specific ways in which the City can strive to develop or enhance stewardship programs, community involvement and partnership opportunities; and,
- provide the planners and officials within the Parks and Recreation Department with the necessary tools to further evaluate and weigh the needs of the community on balance with physical and financial constraints as they strive to provide the best possible facilities to the citizens of Raleigh.

#### **Goal 1:**

***Provide park and open space opportunities to all residents.***

#### Objective:

*Provide adequate land for future development by placing a priority on land acquisition.*

### PLACE A PRIORITY ON LAND ACQUISITION

The need for new Neighborhood, Community and Metro Park development in the coming decades will require that substantial acres of lands be acquired by the City for park development. As is outlined in the demographic profile outlined in Chapter 5, Raleigh's rate of growth and development of lands within the City has been rapid during the past decade. Population projections through 2025 point to a continuation of this trend. With the cost of land continuing to increase and the supply of suitable parcels for park development decreasing, it is recommended that the City seek every opportunity to

acquire land that is appropriate for park development or to serve as Natural Areas (described below). This is most critical as the City looks to acquire land for larger Community and Metro Parks where large tracts of suitable lands may be available for a short time and then lost as an opportunity forever. By securing the best lands available today, the City will be able to develop the parks and recreation opportunities that its citizens desire and that are recommended in this plan.

### **Goal 1:**

#### Objective:

*Develop a system of parks and recreation facilities that meets current and future needs of the citizens of Raleigh.*

### PROVIDE A BALANCED DEDICATED USAGE OF PARKLAND

In order to ensure that adequate parkland is available to meet future development needs and recreational trends, it is recommended that the City institute a process by which Master Plans of existing and future proposed parks clearly delineate intended uses for the park. These delineated use areas include the following:

1. areas currently used or planned for active recreation;
2. areas currently used or planned for passive recreation;
3. areas reserved for future active and/or passive recreation; and,
4. areas reserved as Natural Areas in perpetuity for which a stewardship plan is developed.

Initiation of this system will allow the City to better accommodate future recreational needs that arise and to respond to citizens' requests in several ways:

- By creating delineated areas for future development, the City will be able to create and maintain a supply of available developable parkland for active or passive recreation. This supply can assist the City in the selection of suitable sites to accommodate future recreational needs by including site data on area size, and opportunities/constraints as identified during the Master Planning process.
- By delineating areas within Master Plans for both existing and proposed parks as Natural Areas, the City will forward its environmental stewardship goals and ensure that some portion of parkland will forever remain natural in character.

In order to implement this approach it is recommended that the City adopt the following procedure on a system-wide basis and then subsequently in conjunction with the master planning for each parkland unit:

1. Conduct an ecological assessment that examines the physical and biological characteristics of remaining undeveloped parkland in order to identify sensitive areas and/or areas recommended for protection. Seek new parkland with unique and/or representative natural character. This assessment should reference the stewardship goal summarized under Goal 3 in this chapter
2. After an ecological assessment has identified any prime areas of physical or biological distinction, delineate a Draft Natural Area.
3. Identify active and passive recreation elements that are desired to be included within the parkland unit being planned. Determine the minimum site area needed for each and evaluate with respect to both the total area and site suitability of the land excluding the Draft Natural Area delineation. A basic ratio of 40% active to 60% passive use in Neighborhood Parks, and 60% active to 40% passive in Community Parks may be used as a "rule of thumb" to inform the decision making process. During this evaluation of active and passive recreation needs for

each individual site, nearby or adjacent Greenway Corridors or Conservation Areas need to be considered as all City properties hold the potential to contribute to the passive recreational needs of citizens and the green infrastructure of the City. In situations where a future park site is best suited for active recreational uses and there are passive recreational opportunities either adjacent or nearby, the active/passive guidelines above can be achieved. In these cases it is encouraged that Greenway Trail connections be developed between developed parks and Natural Areas in order to promote connectivity and to share infrastructure elements such as restrooms and parking.

4. Based upon the results of this evaluation, adjust the Natural Area delineation or recreation activities in order to achieve an acceptable balance of uses as determined by community involvement and park planners' overall perspective of the park and recreation system.
5. Remaining lands can be identified and delineated as areas available for future active or passive recreation development.

For areas that are delineated as future active or passive recreation areas, it is recommended that the City adopt the stewardship plan of the reserved natural areas delineated within the park development and that this plan be utilized to care for this portion of the site until the City develops the area for recreation. As future development timetables cannot always be known, this will ensure that these areas receive a sound and sustainable management program in the interim.

As the Greenway System continues to expand, it is increasingly important to express priorities for trail development. Prompted by strong community interest in setting these priorities, the 2003 Parks and Greenway Bond Proposal as approved by Council identifies the Greenways intended to be developed as high priority projects.

### **Goal 1:**

#### Objective:

*Develop recreational facilities that are within close proximity of all residents.*

### PROVIDE AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

The above recommended park classifications that define desirable service areas, in combination with the revised LOS and NRPA guidelines, provide the rationale for the equitable distribution of parks across the community. It is important to note that when examining service areas of parks to determine distribution across the City, that, as described in the classifications recommendations above, "larger" park types can fulfill the needs and thus the service areas of "smaller"

park types. For example, Metro Parks can serve the entire community for a given significant recreational opportunity, as well as serve the area within two-miles as a Community Park, and the surrounding residents within ½ mile as a Neighborhood Park. Similarly, Community Parks can serve residents within their two-mile service area and fulfill the need for a Neighborhood Park to the residents who live the closest.

Currently, Community Parks are well distributed spatially within the City. When applying the two-mile service area assigned to this classification, the nine new Community Parks recommended will provide the community with excellent distribution and proximity to residents for this park type. To ensure that there is a broad distribution of activities and services offered within existing and proposed Community Parks, the City is further encouraged to examine each existing and proposed Community

Park in relation to the LOS recommendations, nearby facilities, and user preferences in order to identify potential upgrades and a possible focus such as arts, fitness, field sports, etc.

Neighborhood Parks, with 43 existing and 43 proposed by the year 2025, represent the greatest challenge to achieving equitable distribution across the City. As Map 3 in Chapter 7 illustrates, when applying the recommended ½-mile service area to Neighborhood Parks, large portions of the City are not served. The 43 recommended new parks will eventually fulfill this spatial distribution; however, as an interim step to this goal the City is encouraged to first focus new Neighborhood Park search areas and developments on providing facilities that distribute Neighborhood Parks based on a one-mile service area followed by increased focus on achieving the ½-mile service area.

As Metro Parks serve the entire community, spatial distribution is less necessary, however, currently spatial distribution is good and new Metro Parks identified for addition by 2025 will continue this pattern. Most residents dwell within close proximity of a Metro Park. It is also intended that the focus of the Metro Parks (i.e. ecological, active recreation, etc.) be broadly developed.

Special Parks and facilities that do not carry either a LOS or recommended service area will require ongoing analysis by the City to ensure that every effort is made to provide a broad range of special facilities and services throughout the community.

### **Goal 1:**

#### Objective:

*Provide facilities and programs that serve a broad cross-section of the City's residents*

#### Objective:

*Develop recreational facilities that are universally accessible (ADA compliant) to all citizens.*

## PLAN FOR FLEXIBILITY

The need for a flexible system of park and recreation facilities is vital to the forward progress of the City's park and recreation system. As the availability of suitable lands for park development decreases and the demand for additional basic recreation facilities, as well as for facilities associated with new trends, increases, the City will need to seek creative ways in which to continue providing a broad range of recreational opportunities to its citizens. In particular, the development of new Neighborhood, Community and Metro Parks will require creativity and flexibility. The delineation of the four component parts of a park described above, with its reservation of lands for future active or passive development, is one way in which the City can proactively establish a flexible system. Another way in which the City can promote flexibility within the park system is to strategically vary recreational opportunities between parks within a given region of the community. For example, while all Neighborhood Parks are recommended to receive a base set

of standard facilities, additional recreational activities may intentionally vary between adjacent parks in order to provide a greater range of activities and provide users with proximity to many different opportunities. This system of base and additional facilities is described in the parks classifications section.

## INCORPORATE UNIVERSAL DESIGN

In order to allow recreational facilities that are accessible to all, each phase of the planning and implementation process of new park development needs to include universal design principles as a primary goal. It is also recommended that the City's existing parks be examined for their compliance to ADA guidelines and that a process be developed within renovation and maintenance programs to bring non-accessible facilities into compliance. Specific areas to address would include but not be limited to:

- Selection of playground equipment that serves children of all abilities
- Ensuring that accessible links between parking areas and major park elements are provided
- Use of trail surface materials that allow wheelchair access
- Providing trails with ADA compliant grades where feasible
- Seeking to provide accessible trails that form loops or link to other accessible trails in order to provide long segments that are accessible to a variety of users and abilities
- Seek to provide programming and interpretive facilities that accommodate participants of all abilities

**Goal 2:**  
***Provide a Diverse,  
Well-Balanced, Well-  
Maintained Range of  
Recreational  
Opportunities***

**Objective:**

*Develop park and recreational facilities that provide a wide range of recreational opportunities and that offer varied experiences to residents within close proximity to their home.*

## RECOMMENDED PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS

Currently the City of Raleigh utilizes a hierarchy of six park classes within the Parks and Recreation Department. This classification system has in large part served the community well since the 1990 plan. In order to respond to current needs and revised level of service analysis, one substantial change (i.e. the establishment of a “Natural Areas” classification) and several modest changes are recommended. Following are the five recommended classifications.

### **Natural Areas**

Natural Areas are intended to serve as a means of conserving land with its natural or restored naturalistic character intact. Natural Areas can be separate parkland units or delineated portions of other parkland identified in order to facilitate resource stewardship. It is recommended that a specific stewardship plan be developed for each Natural Area delineated (principles to provide delineation guidance are

summarized in a subsequent section). Natural Areas include two sub-classes: Conservation Areas and Greenway Corridors. Conservation Areas are intended as an overlay concept to provide administrative and environmental management tools to serve this public need. Conservation Areas do not carry a specific LOS goal. Greenway Corridors carry an absolute acreage goal, but not a specific LOS; however, their target overall acreage at a given time contributes to the cumulative current system LOS at that given time. While these Conservation Areas and Greenway corridors do not have specific targeted amounts of acreage per thousand persons within the City, the needs addressed in Chapter 6 as reflected in the survey point to a greater emphasis on passive recreation activities, many of which can be satisfied through increased Conservation Areas and Greenway Corridors. Every effort should be made by the City to include elements such as park and neighborhood connections to Greenways and Conservation Areas as future development of parks and residential areas occur in the City. It is also critical that future Capital Improvement Plans and bond issues include funds to secure prime Natural Area lands and continued acquisition of greenway corridors in order to work towards connectivity of this system. It is intended that Natural Areas be delineated for their unique natural character, green infrastructure function (e.g. stream corridor, wetlands, etc.), and their ability to provide access, continuity and linkage of separate trails within the overall system. Once delineated, Natural Areas are to be managed for this use in perpetuity. The creation and management of Natural Areas provides an excellent opportunity for the City to establish partnerships with Wake County, other area municipalities, and area environmental organizations such as the Triangle Land Conservancy. As each of these entities have may overlapping plans and goals, these partnerships should focus on developing common priorities for land preservation and action strategies for acquisition and long-term management.

### **Conservation Areas (sub-class of Natural Areas)**

Conservation Areas are intended to serve as a means of preserving land with its natural character intact and to welcome passive recreational uses. These areas will be part of another classification (i.e. Neighborhood, Community, Metro or Special Park), and defined as either:

1. a delineated portion of a parkland unit for which a stewardship plan will be developed; or
2. an entire parkland unit that serves the goals of Natural Areas and would benefit from management under a specific stewardship plan.

When evaluating land for designation as a Conservation Area, consideration should be given to unique flora or fauna and the need to strike a balance between developing parkland and designating conservation areas. The overall benefit of larger natural systems should be a high priority in designating Conservation Areas.

By conserving these areas, the City will also be honoring and supporting its sustainability goal and the open space goals set forth in the Wake County Consolidated Open Space Plan (2002) and the Wake County Inventory of Natural Places. Conservation Areas may contain internal nature trails but remain separate from the linear Greenway system. It is recommended that Conservation Areas include basic facilities to accommodate visitation such as parking, restrooms, nature trails, signage, and, potentially, environmental education opportunities. Examples of Conservation Areas are Durant Nature Park (Metro Park) and Brookhaven Park (Neighborhood Park). To effectively implement this classification, Conservation Areas need to be identified during both the land acquisition and Master Plan phases of park development.

### **Greenway Corridors (sub-class of Natural Areas)**

Greenway Corridors are interconnected linear parks that form a City-wide open space network that allows for passive recreation while forwarding the City's environmental protection goals. Greenways are illustrated on Map 2 in Chapter 5. Greenways can serve many functions within the community; the following goals are established for Greenway Corridors:

1. Preserve natural characteristics of the land
2. Preserve wildlife corridors
3. Preserve riparian buffers as a means of protecting water quality
4. Preserve stream corridors to manage storm water runoff
5. Provide buffers for multiple land uses
6. Provide opportunities for passive recreation
7. Provide multi-use trails for recreation and safe alternatives-transportation routes

Greenways usually follow streambeds also associated with State-required buffer areas, but other adjacent land is often included to provide linkages between other Greenway Corridors or to better meet the goals identified above. While no service area distances are identified for this classification, Greenways are recommended to include the lands on either side of the stream top of bank at a distance of 100', or the entire delineated floodplain area on either side of the stream centerline, whichever distance is greater. Along the Neuse River, this recommendation is expanded to a 150' buffer or the entire floodplain, whichever is greater. These recommendations are intended to serve both the environmental protection goals of the community while serving the functional needs of the greenway system as a recreational facility. Greenways can contain multi-use pedestrian and bicycle trails for recreation. In order to achieve connectivity of Greenway segments and an overall unified system within the City as well as linkages to regional trails and greenway trails of adjacent communities, Greenways in some cases may include areas of urban rights-of-way or sidewalk linkages and be considered part of the intermodal transportation system.

The Greenway Trail System contains three types of Greenway Trails: major, minor and penetrator. Portions of each trail type have already been developed within established



Greenway Corridors. The Neuse River, Crabtree Creek and Walnut Creek, which divide the city into three relatively equal sub-areas, are the major trails. Minor trails include Leadmine, Marsh, House and Turkey Creek Greenways which link with the major corridors to ultimately form a coordinated network. Penetrator trails provide access from residential areas along tributary streams to the major and minor corridors along main streams. As the Greenway Trail System expands and additional trails are completed, interconnectedness and looping possibilities will continually emerge.

## **Neighborhood Parks**

Intended to serve the daily recreational needs of citizens, Neighborhood Parks are planned to provide for a variety of informal, spontaneous recreational use. The underlying assumption for locating this park type is the convenience, ease and safety with which citizens access the park. Neighborhood Parks typically range in size from 5 to 25 acres and serve residents within a half-mile radius provided that safe access can be provided via signed or grade-separated crossings of high volume thoroughfare streets. Non-programmed facilities are typically provided. Neighborhood Parks are recommended to include a base set of amenities that typically include:

- Playgrounds
- Picnic area
- Unprogrammed open space (for both passive and active recreation)
- Parking

In order to create distinctive and varied neighborhood-responsive parks through the master planning process, and to provide a balanced system as a whole, additional facilities could be chosen from the following list that includes, but is not limited to:

- Restrooms
- Neighborhood Center
- Tennis courts
- Multi-use playing court
- Basketball, Volleyball or Skate courts
- Walking trail
- Disc golf courses
- Horseshoe pits

This plan places a greater emphasis on the development of Neighborhood Parks and includes a goal of providing park facilities that are ultimately within one-half mile of every residence. As the City population grows, however, the availability of suitable parklands in some areas is becoming scarce. Where it is not practical to find parcels large enough to satisfy the space requirements of a Neighborhood Park, existing or new Mini Parks may be considered to serve the surrounding neighborhoods. While these Mini Parks may not be able to match all the facilities provided by a traditional Neighborhood Park, the City should evaluate the facilities offered in adjacent Neighborhood and Mini Parks and then seek to optimize the active and passive recreational facilities within each to offer a variety of activities to nearby residents. As each situation will need to be evaluated individually over time, no specific facilities are currently recommended to serve this alternative Neighborhood Park role.



## Community Parks

Community Parks provide the same facilities and services as Neighborhood Parks, as well as additional features that meet expanded recreational needs not provided at the neighborhood park level. Similar to Neighborhood Parks, it is recommended that Community Parks include a base set of facilities equal to that of Neighborhood Parks and that additional facilities differ from other nearby Community Parks to offer varied recreational opportunities that are balanced system-wide. Community parks provide more programmed service, have generally structured activities and may have extended hours of use. It is recommended that at least one half of all Community Parks include a community center. These centers are recommended to include a variety of widely-programmable spaces. Although a majority of these spaces will include a gymnasium, others may focus on specific community needs such as cultural arts, fitness, etc. This commitment to serving specific niches of programming will further allow residents to enjoy varied experiences across the City and will allow park planners to effectively and flexibly meet future leisure trends not yet known. Park sites are, wherever possible, located along major transportation routes. Community Parks typically range in size from 30 to 75 acres and serve residents within a two-mile radius. Community Parks serve the needs of several neighborhoods, although they also serve as neighborhood parks for nearby residential areas provided that safe access can be provided via signed or grade-separated crossings of high volume thoroughfare streets. Base facilities within Community Parks typically include:

- Community Center or Neighborhood Center
- Picnic shelter and picnic area
- Performance area
- Baseball, Softball and/or Multi-Purpose fields
- Tennis, Basketball and/or Multi-Purpose courts
- Walking trail
- Playground
- Unprogrammed recreational open space
- Parking

Additional Facilities within Community Parks are intended to vary from adjacent facilities. During the Master Planning process, choices can be made from the following list that includes, but is not limited to:

- Community Center with gymnasium or other specific focus (e.g. fitness or center; arts center)
- Additional Restroom building
- Pet exercise area
- Skate courts
- Horseshoe pits
- Swimming pool
- Substantial athletic fields with spectator facilities for organized sports ranging from baseball and football to volleyball.

## **Metro Parks**

Metro Parks should provide a leisure or recreational opportunity which, either by size or scale or theme, will appeal to a majority of citizens. A Metro Park often has a unique focus, such as Lake Wheeler or Pullen Metro Park development and acquisition is less straightforward than that of Neighborhood and Community Parks. In turn, the acreage guideline becomes more important as a percentage goal of the total parkland guideline for the City. Future Metro Parks could be developed around specific themes such as a softball complex, a year-round aquatic or athletic facility, a water park, a theme park, a sports stadium complex, perhaps a regulation golf course, an ecological park or science center, a children's museum, or formal gardens and conservatory. These are among many possibilities which may be developed as demand and need are determined. Metro Parks are programmed into the parks system based on the perception of City-wide appeal and need. Where unusual natural appeal exists, or where a particular recreational niche needs focus and expansion, the City will strive to quickly secure suitable land to fulfill these purposes.

## **Special Parks**

There are many acres of land that do not fit easily into the typical recreation classifications described. These are designated as Special Parks. Special Parks currently vary in purpose from urban parks, specialty recreation facilities and Civic Centers, to remnant City parcels. Existing mini-parks are included in this classification. These lands often provide open space or relief from urban intensity. They are an important component of the urban form of the city and have a positive cumulative effect on Raleigh's appearance. The potential exists to secure land at major entrances to the City, along highways threading around the urban core for a possible future visitor's center or within neighborhood per the Urban Form component of the Comprehensive Plan. Proposals for unique facilities will come forward over time as national and regional trends evolve. One such unique facility is the possible creation of a Whitewater park on the Neuse River to the north of the City. Every effort should be taken to utilize the recreation potential of the Falls of Neuse for small watercraft. These efforts should be focused on partnerships with the US Army Corps of Engineers and others. The City should consider this and other proposals for unique facilities as they come forward and evaluate the feasibility of each and how they will contribute to the recreational needs of the community and the overall parks and recreation system.

## RECOMMENDATIONS BY PARK TYPE

### Overview

Using the information provided in this chapter and in previous chapters, recommendations for new park facilities have been formulated that seek to meet the LOS standards by the year 2025. These recommendations are also broken down by ten –year increments that coincide with the Comprehensive Plan in order for the City to track their progress towards these interim goals. The maps on the following pages illustrate the existing Neighborhood, Community and Metro Parks in Raleigh and their current service areas. An examination of these service areas and the tables below highlight the high need for additional Neighborhood Parks in Raleigh, based both spatially, with the need to satisfy the ½ mile service area recommendation and on the population-based LOS goals set.

Table 1. City-Wide Population Projections

2000*	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
303,971	351,556	399,141	446,726	494,311	541,895

\* Based on 2000 Census

Table 2. City-Wide Current and Proposed LOS Goals and Needs

Classification	Existing Acres	Existing Number of Parks	LOS Standard (Ac/1000)	Additional Needed Acres by 2025	Projected Park Size	New Parks Needed to Meet 2025 LOS	Total Parks Needed by 2025
Neighborhood Parks	518.16	42*	2.6	860.76**	20 ac	43	85
Community Parks	1203.78	21	3.1	476.09	60 ac	9	30
Metro Parks	2268.52	8	4.2	7.44	300 ac	0	8
Special Parks	918.33	101	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	101
Greenway Corridors	2578.52	N/A	N/A	3450	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	7410.21	172	9.9	4794.29	N/A	52	224

\* Includes five School Parks that are recognized as currently serving community needs as Neighborhood Parks

\*\* Presumes six acres equivalent for each of five school parks currently functioning as Neighborhood Parks

Table 3. City-Wide New Parks Needed to Fulfill LOS by Year

Classification	New Parks Required to Meet LOS				Total New Parks Needed by 2025 to meet LOS
	2002	2005	2015	2025	
Neighborhood Parks	12	7	12	12	43
Community Parks			3	6	9
Metro Parks					0

\* Includes five School Parks that are recognized as currently serving community needs as Neighborhood Parks

It is evident from the tables above that the majority of park development needed by the City in the coming decades should be focused on providing Neighborhood Parks. Based on population projections, 43 new Neighborhood Parks will be required by 2025. Community Parks will also require nine new facilities by that time, however, due to a current oversupply of Community Parks as related to population projections, no new developments are needed until after 2010.

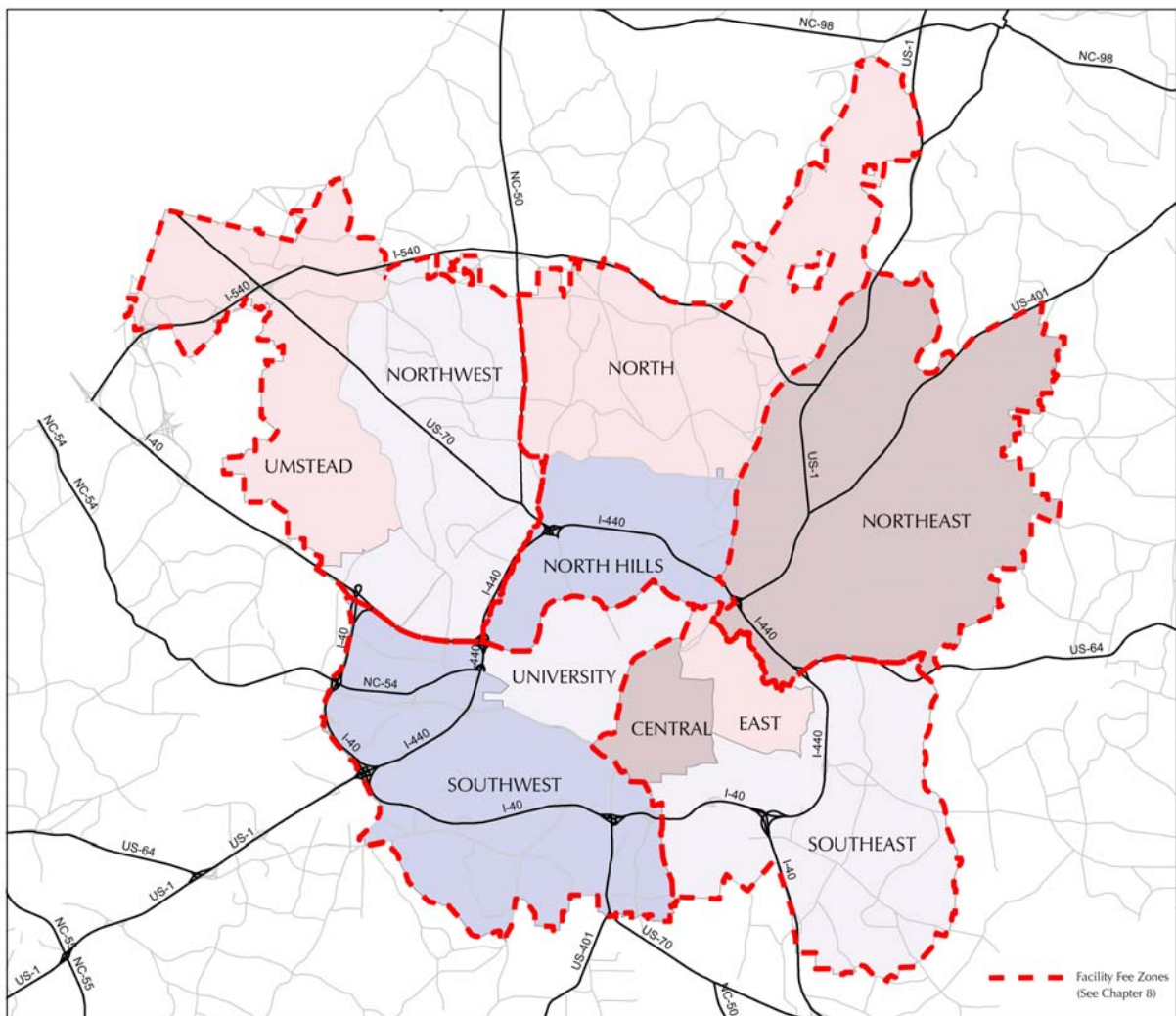
This plan does recommend the upgrade of Kiwanis Park from a Neighborhood to a Community Park. By upgrading the facilities within this park to the level of a Community Park, residents in the surrounding area will have access to this park type in an area in which current development would likely make it impossible to create a new Community Park of adequate size. Kiwanis Neighborhood Park, if converted to a Community Park, offers limited additional programming opportunity as it exists today, however, consideration should be given to increasing opportunities by exploring partnering with the adjacent Joyner Elementary School, and increased marketing efforts to the neighborhood from the established Lions and Jaycee Community Parks. Each of these staffed parks within 2.5 miles from the immediate Kiwanis neighborhood.

The City currently is well-supplied with Metro Parks and based on population estimates and acreage requirements, no new facilities are needed by 2025. However by exploring the development of two additional Metro Park facilities the spatial distribution of Metro Parks within the community would be even better and serve the needs of the community well into the future. As suitable lands for metro parks are becoming scarce, it is recommended that the City acquire lands for these two Metro Parks as opportunities arise. Based on population projections and the LOS they would not be necessary for immediate Metro Park development but contribute to the City's system of Natural Areas for passive recreation and they could be include facilities typically found in Neighborhood or Community Parks to help achieve the LOS goals in these classifications. These recommended Metro Park opportunities are illustrated on Maps 3, 5, and 6.

## RECOMMENDATIONS BY PLANNING DISTRICT

### Overview

The City of Raleigh Comprehensive Plan utilizes a system of Planning Districts that identify ten areas of the City that were created to enable more focused planning. These are illustrated on the graphic below. The recommendations in this section are based on the City-wide recommendations above that have been divided by Planning Districts to allow more focused park and recreation development initiatives and to help City park planners in their efforts to provide equitable distribution of facilities across the City as recommended by this plan. Maps 4 through 7 at the end of Chapter 7 illustrate these recommendations. The Neighborhood Park search areas included in these maps are intended to Guide the City in its efforts to achieve an equitable spatial distribution of parks within each planning district as well as throughout the City as a whole. As actual population densities, future developments, and land availabilities are monitored some Neighborhood Park search areas may need to cross planning district boundaries in order to serve multiple districts with individual parks. These decisions will need to consider access to the park for all surrounding neighborhoods and the availability of recreational opportunities at nearby parks.



The Table below illustrates the total number of existing parks by classification and the number of additional parks needed to meet LOS goals by 2025 within each district with City-wide totals. Map 3 illustrates service areas for existing parks and potential locations and service areas for Community and Metro Parks. Maps 4 through 7 illustrate existing parks and potential Neighborhood Park service areas by planning district.

Table 4. City-Wide New Parks Needed to Fulfill 2025 LOS by Planning District

Planning District	Existing Parks				Potential Parks			Total Parks Goals			
	Mini	Neighborhood (*)	Community	Metro	Neighborhood	Community	Metro	Mini	Neighborhood	Community	Metro
Umstead	0	0	0	0	5	2	0	0	5	2	0
Northwest	0	5	3	0	2	0	0	0	7	3	0
North	0	3 (1)	3	2	7	2	1***	0	11	6	3
North Hills	1	5	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	1	0
Northeast	0	5 (3)	5	1	11	1	0	0	16	6	1
Central	9	5	1	0	3	0	0	9	8	1	0
East	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
Southeast	1	3	4	2	7	1	1***	1	10	5	3
University	1	8	1	1	1	1**	0	1	9	2	1
Southwest	2	7 (1)	3	2	6	1	0	2	13	3	2
Totals	14	42	21	8	43	9	2***	14	85	30	10***

(\*) indicates the number of School Parks serving as Neighborhood Parks in this district

\*\* Assumes upgrade of Kiwanis Park from a Neighborhood to a Community Park

\*\*\* Includes potential Metro Parks on Falls Lake and in the extreme Southeast of the ETJ that are recommended for acquisition as these opportunities become available.

## Umstead Planning District

As the table below and Map 4 illustrate; the Umstead planning district does not have any existing parks. Five Neighborhood Parks and two Community Parks are needed to fulfill 2025 LOS goals. While this district is not currently home to any parks, it is served by Umstead State Park, providing passive recreation and nature-related activities. Much of the northwest portion of this district is occupied by industrial or business parks in close proximity to Raleigh Durham Airport. As a result, Neighborhood Park search areas are located to the eastern portion of the district.

Table 5. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
7,361	34,422	340.4%

Table 6. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	0	0	2.6	84.30	20	5
Community	0	0	3.1	100.51	60	2*

\* Community Parks are illustrated with a two-mile service area

## Northwest Planning District

In the Northwest planning district there are currently, five Neighborhood and three Community Parks. Two additional Neighborhood Parks are needed to fulfill 2025 LOS goals. While much of the district is fully-developed residential land, potential exists for Neighborhood Parks along lands adjacent to Hare Snipe Creek and in the northeastern portion of the district. Map 4 illustrates potential locations for these two Neighborhood Park search areas.

Table 7. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
41,631	60,890	46.3%

Table 8. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	5	122.35	2.6	35.96	20	2
Community	3	155.85	3.1	32.91	60	0



## North Planning District

As the table below and Map 5 illustrate; the district is currently home to three Neighborhood and three Community Parks as well as one School Park. These facilities are mainly distributed toward the southern portions of the district. Six additional Neighborhood Parks and two additional Community Parks are needed to fulfill 2025 LOS goals. Several Neighborhood Park search areas are proposed for the northern portion of the district, where there currently are no existing parks. One Community Park, potentially located near the canoe launch facility on the Neuse River is recommended. While no Metro Parks are needed to meet LOS goals, a Metro Park could potentially be located on Falls Lake just to the north of this district. This potential Metro Park area could offer a wide range of water recreation and nature-related activities and open this regional amenity to the citizens of Raleigh and the surrounding areas. Map 5 illustrates potential locations for these Neighborhood and Community Parks.

Table 9. Project Population

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
58,149	86,377	48.54%

Table 10. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	3	76.85	2.6	147.73	20	7
Community	3	150.05	3.1	117.71	60	2*

\* Community Parks are illustrated with a two-mile service area

## North Hills Planning District

The North Hills planning district is currently served by five Neighborhood Parks and does not require additional Neighborhood Parks to meet 2025 LOS goals. One Community Park is needed to meet LOS goals and as a means of satisfying this need, it is recommended that Kiwanis Park, currently a Neighborhood Park, be upgraded to include the services and facilities of a Community Park.

Table 11. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
26,070	34,303	31.6%

Table 12. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	5	92.99	2.6	-3.81	20	0
Community	0	0	3.1	106.34	60	1*

\* Community Parks are illustrated with a two-mile service area

## Northeast Planning District

By 2025, the Northeast planning district is expected to have the largest population of all planning districts and will have increased 147% from 2000 the population. Currently, five Neighborhood and five Community Parks are located in the district. To meet 2025 LOS goals, twelve new Neighborhood Parks and one new Community Park will be needed. As a means of both protecting natural lands and providing unique experiences to park users, several Neighborhood Park search areas are recommended along the Neuse River corridor. Another significant search area includes the lands surrounding Beaverdam Lake. Map 5 illustrates potential locations for these Neighborhood and Community Parks. This map also includes two future potential search areas, one Community and one Neighborhood Park, that should be considered as the community grows in this direction.

Table 13. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
45,673	112,637	146.6%

Table 14. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	5	54.42	2.6	238.44	20	11
Community	5	447.86	3.1	-98.69	60	1*

\* Community Parks are illustrated with a two-mile service area

## Central Planning District

The Central planning district is home to a dense urban population and downtown Raleigh. Among five existing Neighborhood Parks there are nine Mini Parks. In order to meet 2025 LOS goals, three new Neighborhood Parks will be needed. Due to the nature of development in this district and the difficulty in obtaining land, it is recommended that the City look for ways to upgrade existing Mini Parks in the district or seek partnership opportunities with Wake County Public Schools in order to satisfy this need. Map 6 illustrates potential locations for these three Neighborhood Park search areas.

Table 15. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
19,190	31,474	64%

Table 16. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	5	29.05	2.6	52.79	20	3
Community	1	29.59	3.1	67.97	60	0

## East Planning District

The East planning district, the smallest of the planning districts, also comprises a portion of downtown Raleigh and is highly developed. This district is home to one existing Neighborhood and one Community Park. An additional Neighborhood Park is needed to meet 2025 LOS goals. The search area for this park is recommended to be located in the eastern third of the planning district. Two possible areas may accommodate this development, 1) the Natural Areas and Greenway lands along Crabtree Creek and 2) the existing undeveloped King William Park (1.5 acres). Map 6 illustrates this potential Neighborhood Park search area.

Table 17. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
10,639	12,468	17.2%

Table 18. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	1	6.91	2.6	25.51	20	1
Community	1	41.39	3.1	-2.74	60	0

## Southeast Planning District

As the table below and Map 6 illustrate; the Southeast planning district currently holds three Neighborhood, four Community Parks and Walnut Creek (North and South) Metro Parks. This district also has the second highest population increase expected by 2025. To meet 2025 LOS goals, nine additional Neighborhood Parks are needed. Map 6 illustrates potential Neighborhood Park search areas. These areas are mainly focused in the southeastern portion of the district due to the location of existing parks and the lower densities of development in the area. Existing Greenway and other undeveloped parklands lie along Walnut Creek and offer potential Neighborhood Park sites. One potential Metro Park location is identified to the far southeast of the district. This potential Metro Park is not currently required by LOS goals, but holds the opportunity to provide a Metro Park that is rural in character to this region of the City. This map also includes one future potential search area for a Neighborhood Park that should be considered as the community grows in this direction.

Table 19. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
25,854	71,251	175.6%

Table 20. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	3	38.35	2.6	146.90	20	7
Community	4	251.09	3.1	-30.21	60	1

## University Planning District

Eight Neighborhood Parks and one Community Park are currently found in the University Planning district. The district is also home to one Mini Park and one Metro Park (Pullen Park). To meet LOS goals for 2025, one additional Neighborhood Parks and one additional Community Park are needed. The eastern portion of the district (east of Fairview Road) will greatly benefit from a new Neighborhood Park in the Central district and an upgrade to Kiwanis Park to that of a Community Park as their service areas will greatly overlap the University district. The Neighborhood Park search area illustrated on Map 7 is located to the western portion of the district as a result of this.

Table 21. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
23,450	42,453	81%

Table 22. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	8	91.54	2.6	18.8	20	1
Community	1	24.66	3.1	106.95	60	1*

\* Community Parks are illustrated with a two-mile service area

## Southwest Planning District

The Southwest planning district currently holds seven Neighborhood Parks and two Community Parks along with two Mini Parks, one School Park and two Metro Parks (Lakes Johnson and Wheeler). To meet LOS goals for 2025, six additional Neighborhood Parks are needed and one Community Park is needed. North Carolina State University is a major landowner in the district and it is recommended that the City look for opportunities to collaborate or share facilities with the University in its efforts to provide Neighborhood Parks. Map 7 illustrates search areas for Neighborhood Parks and the service area of a potential Community Park to serve citizens that reside or work in the area between Wade Avenue and Hillsborough Street just west of I-440.

Table 23. Population Projection

2000 Census Population	2025 Projected Population	Percent Increase
45,954	57,620	25.4%

Table 24. LOS Goals

Park Type	Existing Parks	Existing Acres	LOS	Acres Needed	Projected Size (acres)	Park Search Areas
Neighborhood	7	53.67	2.6	96.14	20	6
Community	2	94.07	3.1	84.55	60	1*

\* Community Parks are illustrated with a two-mile service area

## FACILITIES PER PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for Facilities Per Park are based on estimations of the type of facilities that should typically be included in each park type. These recommendations represent guidelines for facility development within parks. They do not represent minimum facility standards for any single park, thus, they should not be used in an arbitrary way to set minimum development standards for a given park. As guidelines, these recommendations are most appropriately used for planning and cost estimating purposes.

### **Purpose of Facilities per Park Guidelines**

Facilities Per Park recommendations can be used to achieve two fundamental planning objectives: 1) the basis for equitable distribution of facilities and 2) the basis for capital improvement planning. Firstly, these recommendations establish a basic relationship between park classifications and level of service objectives. The development of facilities within parks based on these recommendations, systematically applied, will directly contribute to reaching and maintaining level of service objectives. Conversely, reasonable facility per park recommendations can also indicate where level of service objectives cannot be reached without extraordinary measures or a change in objectives. Facility per park recommendations contribute to the geographic distribution of desired facilities in a reasonably balanced manner if the park sites themselves are, in geographic terms, equitably distributed. In other words, equitably distributed park sites have the potential to deliver desired facilities in a consistent manner to all service areas. Facility per park recommendations are baseline models that can be used to plan for the provision and distribution of basic facilities.

The second primary use of facility per park recommendations is cost estimating and capital improvements programming. By establishing baseline models for park types, cost estimates can be generated for each park type based upon the estimated type and number of facilities in that park classification anticipated to be developed over the next 25 years.

The types of parkland addressed in the facility per park recommendations are:

- Neighborhood Parks – Low, Moderate and High Development Potential
- Community Parks – Moderate and High Development Potential
- Metro Parks
- Conservation Areas
- Greenway Corridors
- Special Parks

There are three levels of development identified for Neighborhood Parks due to the high demand and limited land resources available. Limited land resources will likely limit the development potential of such parks at least some of the time. Thus, it is anticipated that some flexibility will be needed based on site capabilities. Community Parks and Metro Parks, at least from a modeling standpoint, serve as the major framework for facility development. Conservation areas and Greenway Corridors, the two types of Natural Areas identified in the Parks Classifications, have important, specific, but limited facilities associated with them. Special parks are opportunities to focus upon extraordinary, unique recreational opportunities and/or upon ways to accomplish recreational objectives in creative and atypical ways.

The facility list is derived from the Activity Interest List developed for the Recreation Participation Preference Survey. The activities associated with each facility item is simply a means of demonstrating links between basic facilities and activities in which people have shown interest.

The number of facilities recommended for each park type is an estimation of typical development potential given normal site constraints. When a fraction of a facility is indicated, the implication is that the facility is appropriate for the park type, but not essential to the successful development of the park; however it is anticipated that approximately that fraction of the parks in that classification will contain that facility. The intent is also to suggest flexibility based on site conditions and more precisely determined service area demands.

The facility per park recommendations are outlined in the table below.

Table 25. Facility Per Park Recommendations: Neighborhood Parks

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Activities*</b>	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>	<b>Neighborhood Park</b>
Development Potential	*Taken from LOS activity list	Level A	Level B	Level C
Community Center	Arts/craft classes	0	0	0
(with gym)	Arts show/festival			
	Fitness related classes			
Neighborhood Center	Arts/craft classes	0	0	1
(meeting rooms/restrooms)	Fitness-related classes			
Restroom Building	N/A	0	1	0
Picnic Facilities	Picnicking with family			
16' x 32' shelter	Picnicking with groups	0	.5	.5
40' x 60' shelter		0	0	0
Number of tables		10	10	12
Performance Stage	Outdoor performance	0	0	0
Baseball Field	Playing baseball	0	0	0
	Watching sports			
Softball Field	Playing softball	0	0	0
	Watching sports			
Field Sports:	Playing soccer	0	0	1
(rectangular fields)	Playing football			
Soccer	Watching sports			
Football				
Lacrosse, etc.				
Tennis Courts (unit of 2)	Playing tennis	0	0	1
Basketball Court	Playing basketball	0	0	0.5
Volleyball Court (unit of 2)	Playing volleyball	0	0	1
Skate Court	Roller/inline skating	0	0	.5
	Skateboarding			
Swimming pool (indoor)	Fitness/Team swimming	0	0	0
Water Recreation < 50 Ac.	Canoeing/Rowing	0	0	0
	Using pedal boats			
	Fishing			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Nature study			
	Bird watching			
Water Recreation > 50 Ac.	Canoeing/Rowing	0	0	0
	Using pedal boats			
	Sailing			
	Fishing			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Nature study			
	Bird watching			
Number of Boats	Canoeing/Rowing	0	0	0
(all types)	Using pedal boats			
	Sailing			
Walking Trails (miles)	Walking in natural area	0.35	0.5	0.5
	Jogging			
	Walking along trail			

	Viewing wildlife			
	Using fitness trail			
	Walking pets			
	Roller/inline skating			
	Bird watching			
Walking Trails > 1 mile	Walking in natural area	0	0	0
	Jogging			
	Walking along trail			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Using fitness trail			
	Walking pets			
	Roller/inline skating			
	Bird watching			
Greenway Trail:	Walking in natural area	Note # 8	Note # 8	Note # 8
Length of Route	Jogging			
	Walking along trail			
	Bicycling			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Visiting greenways			
	Walking pets			
	Mountain biking			
	Bird watching			
Unprogrammed Open Lawn (1–5 Ac.)	Arts show/festivals	1	1	1
	Kite flying			
	Playing frisbee			
Unprogrammed Open Lawn (6–15 Ac.)	Arts show/festivals	0	0	0
	Kite flying			
	Playing frisbee			
Playground	Playing at playground	1	1	1
Horseshoe Pits (1 set)	Playing horseshoes	0	1	1
Disc Golf	Playing disc golf	0	0	0
Pet Exercise Area (4–8 Ac.)	Walking pets	0	0	0
Parking (1 unit = 20 spaces)	N/A	1	1	1

Table 26. Facility Per Park Recommendations: Community and Metro Parks

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Activities*</b>	<b>Community Park</b>	<b>Community Park</b>	<b>Metro Park</b>
Development Potential	*Taken from LOS activity list	Moderate	High	
Community Center	Arts/craft classes	0	1	1
(with gym)	Arts show/festival			
	Fitness related classes			
Neighborhood Center	Arts/craft classes	1	0	0
(meeting rooms/restrooms)	Fitness-related classes			
Restroom Building	N/A	0	1	1
Picnic Facilities	Picnicking with family			
16' x 32' shelter	Picnicking with groups	2	2	2
40' x 60' shelter		0	1	1
Number of tables		20	30	45
Performance Stage	Outdoor performance	1 (type 1)	1 (type 1)	1 (type 2)
Baseball Field	Playing baseball	0	1	2
	Watching sports			
Softball Field	Playing softball	2	2	2
	Watching sports			
Field Sports:	Playing soccer	1	1	2
(rectangular fields)	Playing football			
Soccer	Watching sports			
Football				
Lacrosse, etc.				
Tennis Courts (unit of 2)	Playing tennis	2	2	0
Basketball Court	Playing basketball	2	2	2
Volleyball Court (unit of 2)	Playing volleyball	1	2	2
Skate Court	Roller/inline skating	1	1	0
	Skateboarding			
Swimming pool (indoor)	Fitness/Team swimming	Note # 10	Note # 10	Note # 10
Water Recreation < 50 Ac.	Canoeing/Rowing	Note # 7	Note # 7	1



	Using pedal boats			
	Fishing			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Nature study			
	Bird watching			
Water Recreation > 50 Ac.	Canoeing/Rowing	0	0	Note # 7
	Using pedal boats			
	Sailing			
	Fishing			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Nature study			
	Bird watching			
Number of Boats (all types)	Canoeing/Rowing	0	0	25
	Using pedal boats			
	Sailing			
Walking Trails < 1 mile	Walking in natural area	0	0	0
	Jogging			
	Walking along trail			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Using fitness trail			
	Walking pets			
	Roller/inline skating			
	Bird watching			
Walking Trails > 1 mile	Walking in natural area	1	1	4
	Jogging			
	Walking along trail			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Using fitness trail			
	Walking pets			
	Roller/inline skating			
	Bird watching			
Greenway Trail:	Walking in natural area	Note # 8	Note # 8	Note # 8
Length of Route	Jogging			
	Walking along trail			
	Bicycling			
	Viewing wildlife			
	Visiting greenways			
	Walking pets			
	Mountain biking			
	Bird watching			
Unprogrammed Open Lawn (1–5 Ac.)	Arts show/festivals	1	0	0
	Kite flying			
	Playing frisbee			
Unprogrammed Open Lawn (6–15 Ac.)	Arts show/festivals	0	1	1
	Kite flying			
	Playing frisbee			
Playground	Playing at playground	1	1	1
Horseshoe Pits (1 set)	Playing horseshoes	1	1	0
Disc Golf	Playing disc golf	1	1	0
Pet Exercise Area (4–8 Ac.)	Walking pets	0	1	0
Parking (1 unit = 20 spaces)	N/A	8	10	15

Table 27. Facility Per Park Recommendations: Greenways and Special Parks

<u>Facility</u>	<u>Activities*</u>	<u>Greenway Corridors</u>	<u>Special Parks</u>
	*Taken from LOS activity list		
Community Center (with gym)	Arts/craft classes	0	Note # 1
	Arts show/festival		
	Fitness related classes		
Neighborhood Center (meeting rooms/restrooms)	Arts/craft classes	0	0
	Fitness-related classes		
Restroom Building	N/A	0	0
Picnic Facilities	Picnicking with family		

16' x 32' shelter	Picnicking with groups	0 (see Note # 3)	Note # 2
40' x 60' shelter		0	Note # 2
Number of tables		2 (see Note # 3)	As needed
Performance Stage	Outdoor performance	0	As exists or desired
Baseball Field	Playing baseball	0	Note # 4
	Watching sports		
Softball Field	Playing softball	0	Note # 4
	Watching sports		
Field Sports:	Playing soccer	0	Note # 4
(rectangular fields)	Playing football		
Soccer	Watching sports		
Football			
Lacrosse, etc.			
Tennis Courts (unit of 2)	Playing tennis	0	Note # 4
Basketball Court	Playing basketball	0	0
Volleyball Court	Playing volleyball	0	0
Skate Court	Roller/inline skating	0	Note # 5
	Skateboarding		
Swimming pool (indoor)	Fitness/Team swimming	0	Note # 6
Water Recreation < 50 Ac.	Canoeing/Rowing	0	Note #11
	Using pedal boats		
	Fishing		
	Viewing wildlife		
	Nature study		
	Bird watching		
Water Recreation > 50 Ac.	Canoeing/Rowing	0	0
	Using pedal boats		
	Sailing		
	Fishing		
	Viewing wildlife		
	Nature study		
	Bird watching		
Number of Boats	Canoeing/Rowing	0	0
(all types)	Using pedal boats		
	Sailing		
Walking Trails < 1 mile	Walking in natural area	0	0
	Jogging		
	Walking along trail		
	Viewing wildlife		
	Using fitness trail		
	Walking pets		
	Roller/inline skating		
	Bird watching		
Walking Trails > 1 mile	Walking in natural area	0	0
	Jogging		
	Walking along trail		
	Viewing wildlife		
	Using fitness trail		
	Walking pets		
	Roller/inline skating		
	Bird watching		
Greenway Trail:	Walking in natural area	1	0
Length of Route	Jogging		
	Walking along trail		
	Bicycling		
	Viewing wildlife		
	Visiting greenways		
	Walking pets		
	Mountain biking		
	Bird watching		
Unprogrammed Open Lawn	Arts show/festivals	0	0
(1–5 Ac.)	Kite flying		
	Playing frisbee		
Unprogrammed Open Lawn	Arts show/festivals	0	0
(6–15 Ac.)	Kite flying		
	Playing frisbee		

Playground	Playing at playground	Note # 3	0
Horseshoe Pits (1 set)	Playing horseshoes	0	0
Disc Golf	Playing disc golf	0	0
Pet Exercise Area (4–8 Ac.)	Walking pets	0	0
Parking (1 unit = 20 spaces)	N/A	0	As needed

Notes:

1. A community center facility could be developed as a stand alone facility and/or as a special use facility devoted to specific or concentrated activities such as fitness, adventure sports, etc.
2. Picnic shelters of various sizes may be appropriately associated with special parks such as skate parks, special athletic facilities, etc.
3. There are opportunities along greenway corridors where there is sufficient room and access (nodes) for modest development including picnic shelters, picnic tables and play equipment.
4. Parks devoted to certain sports such as baseball, softball, soccer, tennis etc. could be concentrated at one site as a special park.
5. A skate park is a distinct opportunity as a special park or element of an existing park.
6. Swimming facilities can be incorporated into parks or developed as stand-alone facilities.
7. Potential for development exists depending upon existence, size and physical characteristics of water body. If water-based recreation is included in a park type, it is assumed that it will replace another facility of approximate equal value.
8. Park used as trail head or access point.
9. Area is an integral part of greenway corridor.
10. Swimming pools are not included in these facility per park standards.
11. A whitewater park on the Neuse River near the falls could be considered as a possible Special Park

To summarize, Facility Per Park Standards are models used for planning and cost estimating purposes. These models are means of demonstrating how basic services can be incorporated into park types, which, in turn, can be distributed as equitably as possible across service areas to meet level of service objectives. These models are not inflexible prototypes. Flexibility, creatively applied to the opportunities that each park site holds, is highly desirable. Level of service objectives can be achieved across multiple-park scenarios within given service areas rather than imposing rigid criteria to each available site. The balance achieved will rarely be perfect, but the quality and diversity of the parks themselves will more than compensate for slight facility and level of service imbalances.

## PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Identification of Needs**

Public swimming pool facilities, whether seasonal outdoor or year-round indoor, are a highly desired amenity to most communities. As expressed by citizens, the City of Raleigh is no exception to this. The City currently maintains six outdoor pool facilities and two indoor year-round pools. Based upon survey responses to the Recreation Participation Preference Survey conducted during the summer of 2002 there is a latent demand of 13.8% for pool facilities within the City at the present time for Fitness and team swim opportunities. The current eight pools (2 year-round and 6 seasonal) are providing for 35.5% of the demand. From these results, to meet the Level of Service for the very high interested and the extremely interested portion of the population The City would need additional pools.

### **Market Demand and Prioritization Issues**

Though there is an expressed need that appears in the survey results and a clear unmet demand for pool facilities, there are yet several unclear market-related issues that need to be ascertained prior to a City commitment to developing pool facilities to meet the identified latent demand. These issues include:

- Need for indoor versus outdoor facilities;
- Type and character of each potential facility (i.e. swimming only, tournament quality swimming and diving, family waterpark/spraygrounds);
- Effect of private, non-profit and Wake County Public School System facilities on user demand;
- Desired locations of facilities to target high demand areas and address appropriate spatial distribution;
- Relative priority of meeting this latent demand versus meeting unmet demand for other facilities; and
- Cost-benefit evaluation of providing for this costly facility type versus less costly facility types to satiate unmet demand for other activities.

## **Background and Recommendations**

The City conducted a public pool feasibility study in 1976. At the time of the study two public pools existed, one at Pullen and one at Chavis Parks. The recommendation from the study was for 8 pools to be developed in the first decade (to include 1 regional, year round indoor natatorium, 4 community outdoor pools, and 3 neighborhood mini-swim facilities) and 13 additional pool facilities be developed during the second decade.

Of the 21 facilities recommended, six of the currently existing eight facilities were constructed following the 1976 study. The Chavis pool was completely refurbished in 1985. The outdoor pool at Pullen Park was replaced with an indoor year-round facility in 1992. Three spray-play areas have been added to existing pools, with a fourth currently under contract.

This background data will need to be enhanced with additional study to thoroughly evaluate water recreation facility needs. In light of the above issues, and given the significant potential capital investment and long term maintenance commitment in pool facilities, further detailed study by the City is recommended. This study is recommended to be comprehensive in nature and consider all existing public, private and non-profit facilities, current demands on facilities, costs and economic feasibility. This study is recommended to include:

1. A full survey of the inventory of existing public and private pools and programming available should be conducted that includes:
  - Type of facility
  - Number of pool structures and elements (e.g. swimming, wading, diving, water play, etc.)
  - Condition of facilities
  - Programming offered
  - Hours of programmed activities versus hours available
  - Summaries of uses
  - Analysis of the spatial distribution of facilities across the community
2. Estimated projections of future pool and aquatic center needs based upon population projections.
3. Potential costs of pool development for various sizes and types of facilities.
4. Economic feasibilities of facility developments over time.

To implement this recommendation, it is suggested that the study be carried out in a public process, facilitated by an independent consultant, contracted to the City of Raleigh, with all stakeholders invited to provide input. Stakeholders should include, but not be limited to, advocates of aquatic facilities, taxpayer and homebuilder associations, non-profit organizations, Wake County Public School System, professional recreation staff and private aquatic facility representatives. Funding for this study should be sought within the FY 2004-2005 budget cycle and the formation of the stakeholders be identified out prior to the selection of the consultant in order that their input may be solicited during the development of the request for proposals.

In the near term, in order to help alleviate some of the immediate demand for new pool facilities, the City is encouraged to seek ways to optimize the use of its current facilities (e.g. through extended hours or conversion of seasonal facilities to year-round facilities). The City is also encouraged to develop an inventory of private facilities and seek creative public-private partnerships to better serve the current needs of citizens.

## FACILITY SPACE GUIDELINES

Facility Space Guidelines were developed for each facility listed in the Facility Per Park Recommendations. The intent is to identify the amount of space typically associated with basic facilities. For each facility, the calculations of required space take into account such construction necessities as clearing and grading as well as space required to access the facility. There are three aspects of space considered for each facility: *Space requirements*, *size/dimension* and *orientation*. *Space requirement* is the estimated sum, in acres, of the total space that will be encumbered by a facility. *Size/Dimensions* is the identifiable footprint of the facility in square feet or the typical dimensions of a facility. *Orientation* is the desired orientation of the facility to minimize the interference of sunlight with people utilizing the facility.

The necessary acreage of a park cannot be ascertained by adding up the space requirements of the desired facilities. The importance of the functional relationships between facilities and site-specific opportunities and constraints will inform the utilization of space. Also, the space between facilities is often at least as important as the facilities themselves. Thus, since the density of facility development in a park is predicated upon on many variables; these guidelines primarily serve as a basic toolkit for estimating facility development potential based on available acreage.

The Facility Space Guidelines are outlined below.

Table 28. Facility Space Guidelines

<u>Facility/Activity</u>	<u>Space Requirement</u>	<u>Size/Dimensions</u>	<u>Orientation</u>
▪ Community Center	2 acres	20,000 SF Center	N/A
▪ Neighborhood Center	.6 acre	2,500 SF Center	N/A
▪ Restroom Building	.4 acre	750 SF	N/A
▪ Picnic Shelter: 16'x32'	.2 acre	N/A	N/A
▪ Picnic Shelter: 40'x60'	.6 acre	N/A	N/A
▪ Performance Stage – Type 1	1.0 acre	N/A	Orient along centerline from center of stage to center of gathering/seating area within 15° of north-south axis.
▪ Performance Stage – Type 2	1.5 acres	N/A	Orient along centerline from center of stage to center of gathering/seating area within 15° of north-south axis.
▪ Baseball Field	4-4.5 acres	<u>Official:</u> Baselines 90' Pitching Dist. 60.5' Foul Lines 320' min. Centerfield 400' +/- <u>Little League:</u> Baselines 60' Pitching Dist. 46' Foul Lines 200' Centerfield 200-250'	Line from home plate through pitcher's mound to run east-northeast; left field foul line within 15° of north-south axis.

▪ Softball Field	3.5-4 acres	Baselines 60' Pitching Dist.-Men 45' Pitching Dist.-Women 40' Foul Lines 300' Centerfield 300'	Line from home plate through pitcher's mound to run east-northeast; left field foul line within 15° of north-south axis.
▪ Rectangular Athletic Fields	2.6-3.6 acres	<u>Soccer</u> : 195'-225'x 330'-360' (Smaller sizes utilized for youth and practice) <u>Football</u> : 160'x360' <u>Lacrosse</u> : 180'-210'x330' <u>Field Hockey</u> : 150'-180'x270'-300'	Orient length of field within 20° of north-south axis.
▪ Tennis Courts (Unit of 2)	1.2 acres	<u>Court</u> : 36'x78' 21' end of court to fence 12' between courts or to fence	Length of court aligns along north-south axis.
▪ Basketball Court	.5 acre	<u>Court</u> : 50'x84' Min. 4' overrun beyond goal post	Orient length of court along north-south axis.
▪ Volleyball Court	.4 acre	<u>Court</u> : 30'x60' 10' clear on all sides	Orient length of court along north-south axis.
▪ Skate Court	1.4 acres (smaller facilities are possible)	<u>Court</u> : Size to accommodate tennis if use changes; or custom design	Orient length of court along north-south axis if used for roller hockey. This will conflict with tennis if use is changed.
▪ Swimming Pool (Indoor)	2.5-3.5 acres	Variable; high school or college standards as a minimum, plus recreation swimming, diving, etc.	N/A
▪ Horseshoe Pits	nominal	40' stake to stake x 10' 50' total length	Orient length of court no more than 45° west or east of north-south axis.
▪ Disc Golf (18 holes)	7-10 acres		
▪ Active and Passive Recreation Areas (Open Lawn): 1-5 acres		2-7.5 acres	Assume 50' transition N/A along all edges
▪ Active and Passive Recreation Areas (Open Lawn): 6-15 acres		8.5-19 acres	Assume 50' transition N/A along all edges
▪ Playground	.5-1.5 acres	Variable, depending on extent	N/A of facility, associated play and safety zones, number of children and age groups served.
▪ Pet Exercise Area: 4-8 acres	4.5-9.0 acres	N/A	N/A
▪ Parking (20 space unit)	.5-.8 acre	Double-loaded bay 61'x90', plus access drives, grading, storm water management	N/A



## **Goal 2:**

### Objective:

*Ensure effective and citizen-responsive use of City recreational facilities and programs.*

## ENHANCING ACCESS AND AWARENESS OF RALEIGH'S RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Providing Raleigh's citizens with a wide range of high-quality recreational opportunities is greatly facilitated by ensuring that available opportunities are well advertised and easily accessible. It is recommended that the City set a primary goal of increasing awareness of these activities in order to stimulate further park usage and to promote public involvement in the park and recreation system. These efforts can take a variety of

forms including wider distribution of programming guides; website promotion; targeted marketing; special event partnerships with schools, non-profit or business organizations; directional signage to guide pedestrians and motorists to park facilities; and informational and interpretive sign kiosks at gathering spaces or along Greenways. Further development of an interconnected Greenway system that links parks and recreational facilities to key community destinations will also help to increase access to and awareness of facilities and an appreciation of services provided.

## **Goal 2:**

### Objective:

*Capitalize on the value of park and recreation facilities to improve the overall aesthetic character of the City and as a means of promoting livability.*

## IMPROVING THE AESTHETIC CHARACTER OF THE CITY AND PROMOTING LIVABILITY

The parks, cultural and historic destinations and urban open spaces within Raleigh can be seen as serving the daily leisure needs of the community and also as serving a broader role in promoting a more livable community. The City of Raleigh Comprehensive Plan addresses protection, access and ecological functions of Natural Corridors in its "Urban Forms and Policies" section. The attractiveness of neighborhoods, regional and employment centers and focus areas within the City play a role in the overall livability of the City. Similarly,

attention to pedestrian/bicycle access via sidewalks, greenway trails, and the continued incorporation of pedestrian/bicycle-friendly details into transportation planning and management help to promote recreational activities as well as alternative transportation. Urban rights-of-way are very visible public open spaces should continue to receive attention by the City to enhance the visual and ecological quality worthy of the State's capital city. It is recommended that the City continue to support, refine, and expand as necessary its progressive programs of urban forestry, landscaping, litter control, signage, and other regulatory tools to provide a favorable impression, provide shade, interest and relief to citizens and visitors. Special attention should also be paid to gateway corridors as outlined in the overall Comprehensive Plan.

**Goal 3:  
Optimize the  
appreciation, use  
and stewardship of  
Raleigh's natural  
resources.**

**Objective:**

***Promote and ensure  
stewardship of Raleigh's  
natural resources.***

## **STEWARDSHIP OF PARKLANDS AND ECOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES**

### **Overview**

As the City faces increased demands to develop active-use parkland it is also under pressure to preserve remaining natural areas within the City and to adhere to strict City, State and Federal environmental regulations. These regulations, along with growing public awareness, support and proactive environmental conservation efforts warrant that a new approach be taken by the Parks and Recreation Department. A dedicated focus on parkland Stewardship within the Department is recommended to become one of the key elements in both the continued maintenance and upgrading of

existing facilities as well as in the Master Planning process of all new facility developments. This process should also complement the environmental stewardship and conservation efforts being undertaken by Wake County and adjacent municipalities. While the City of Raleigh has the immediate responsibility for these efforts within its City limits, ecological systems such as streams and wildlife habitat corridors do not recognize these boundaries, thus there is great benefit to coordinated, complementary efforts by municipalities and organizations throughout the region.

### **Increase Public Awareness**

With a dedicated focus on the stewardship of Raleigh's parkland, the opportunity will exist to greatly enhance the level of public awareness of the unique natural resources currently found within the City as well as the interpretive and environmental education programming available to citizens. As the Facility Needs identifies, there is significant desire among the community for opportunities to interact with nature in Raleigh. Currently the City provides facilities, programming and interpretive opportunities in natural areas of which many citizens are not aware. By increasing awareness of these existing opportunities, some of this latent demand will be immediately met. A dedicated focus on enhancing stewardship and environmental education efforts will likely generate a renewed interest by the citizens of Raleigh in Natural Areas.

### **Ecological Principles for Delineating Conservation Areas**

When delineating Conservation Areas, a park classification intended to be used as an overlay to either existing or proposed park units or portions of park units, an ecological assessment of each individual site will be required. Rather than assigning a general goal of a desired minimum percentage for each park unit that will be designated as a Conservation Area, it is recommended that several principles, described below, be used in order to ensure that the identified Conservation Area is comprised of the highest quality natural and cultural resources available. The guidelines recommended for the delineation of Conservation Areas are as follows:

- Preserve interesting, unique, or representative ecological features and habitats. This has the advantage of allowing for interpretive and educational activities.

- Strive to delineate larger contiguous parcels rather than several smaller unconnected parcels. Larger parcels in the landscape typically contain both edge and interior habitats; the larger these two habitats types are, the more beneficial they typically are for the various species that inhabit them. Large parcels also better protect aquifers and interconnected stream networks.
- Select parcels with irregular edges provide higher species diversity and habitat values over narrow linear parcels.
- Delineate linear parcels with substantial width to ensure that edge and interior zones will be broad enough to support associated plant and animal habitats. Preference should be shown for delineating linear parcels that are linked to larger parcels or adjacent/intersecting parcels to encourage animal species movements.

#### **Additional Ecological Principles to Guide City Efforts**

- Strive to maintain and improve species diversity and populations through enhanced plantings and habitat management within Natural Areas.
- Provide demonstration projects that focus on early successional stages of natural regeneration. These areas provide exceptional viewing and interpretive opportunities as they support a broad diversity of wildlife species.
- Work to protect or restore seasonal pools and intermittent streams that provide essential breeding habitats for many species of wildlife, especially amphibians.

#### **Conservation Areas as a Tool for Achieving Stewardship**

The concepts, principles and recommendations above will allow the City to use the delineation and management of Conservation Areas as a tool to achieve stewardship. With a parks and recreation staff that is dedicated to forwarding City stewardship goals the citizens of Raleigh will have an environmental “champion” within the City that can serve as a liaison to local environmental groups and be assured that their expressed interest in conserving Raleigh’s natural and cultural resources will be met.

### **Goal 3:**

#### Objective:

*Develop and maintain parks and greenways using nationally-accepted sustainable design principles and best management practices*

### UTILIZE SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PRINCIPLES IN PARK DESIGN

Sustainable design is becoming increasingly part of park development. The dominant measures for gauging the degree of ecological sustainability of construction projects are:

- The US Green Building Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), and
- The “Minnesota Sustainable Design Guide”

Additionally, local best management practices for habitat restoration and best management practices for reducing erosion and handling stormwater should be utilized.

### **Goal 3:**

#### Objective:

*Promote, preserve and ensure protection of Raleigh’s cultural and historic resources.*

### PROMOTE, PRESERVE AND ENSURE PROTECTION OF RALEIGH’S CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The preservation and protection of Raleigh’s natural and cultural resources entails an effort by the City, in partnership with area municipalities, agencies and organizations, to play an active role in maintaining ecological, cultural and historic resources. The discussions under Goal 2: *Recommended Parks Classifications* sets forth guidelines for the preservation and protection of natural resources. Cultural and historic

resources within the community also provide a unique opportunity for the Raleigh parks and recreation department to provide varied recreational and leisure opportunities for its citizens. Facilities such as historic homes, performing arts and arts education centers and public places with cultural themes can provide alternative opportunities to active recreation facilities and represent prime opportunities for community interaction and partnerships with other agencies and organizations. Current facilities include: The Pullen and Sertoma Arts Centers, the Theater in the Park, the Rose Garden and Little Theater, historic public squares in downtown Raleigh and several historic homes and plantations.

It is recommended that the City look to optimize its use of these existing historic and cultural facilities through its education and interpretation efforts at these facilities. The City is also encouraged to look for ways to increase public awareness of these programs and for ways to encourage further community volunteer participation in them. As opportunities to preserve significant historic sites or to develop cultural arts venues arise, an evaluation of each opportunity should be made and partnerships with area agencies or groups should be sought in order to broaden the historic and cultural facilities and programs available to the public.

### **Goal 3:**

#### *Objective:*

*Develop environmental education and interpretive facilities.*

## PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Currently the Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of environmental education programs that are coordinated by the City naturalist. These take place at Durant Nature Park, Lake Johnson, Anderson Point and at various other parks, greenways and community centers throughout the City. As the City pursues further acquisition of Natural Areas, develops additional Community Centers, and places a greater emphasis on environmental stewardship, it is

recommended that environmental education facilities and programs become an integral component to these plans. This can be accomplished through new facilities, expanded programs or self-directed environmental education signage in parks, adjacent to important features in Conservation Areas and along Greenway Corridors. The City is also encouraged to seek partnerships with Wake County, adjacent municipalities and the Wake County Public School System to enhance these educational and interpretive opportunities.

**Goal 4:  
Provide the  
Opportunity for  
Community  
Involvement**

Objective:

*Ensure meaningful public participation in the planning of park facilities.*

Objective:

*Inform citizens of plans and available services to promote active participation in the success and future direction of the parks system.*

Objective:

*Develop leisure opportunities that are responsive to the needs of Raleigh's citizens.*

Objective:

*Encourage volunteerism and other forms of private sector involvement.*

## ENCOURAGING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Parks and recreation facilities are public lands that are owned by the public and are intended to serve the public good and increase the quality of life of the citizens of Raleigh. The City currently has adopted policies that encourage public participation in the planning and development of parks and recreation facilities; indeed, this Park Plan is an example of a process that has included numerous opportunities for community involvement. The City is encouraged to continue to implement these policies and to enhance them wherever possible in order to effectively and consistently involve its citizens in the development and management of its parks and recreation system. Following are several recommended principles for community involvement:

- Continue to conduct Recreation Participation Preference Surveys on a regular basis to track the recreational needs of citizens over time.
- Utilize a variety of public outreach methods during park Master Planning efforts in order to reach a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the community.
- Continue to track national trends in recreation and leisure services, and assess whether Raleigh's parks system provides or is able to provide these recreational opportunities. Utilize preference surveys and public open houses held during Master Planning efforts to gather this information.
- Seek to collaborate with local schools through organized events that allow children and parents to become part of the park planning process; and through the formation of school programs that utilize environmental education resources within parks adjacent to schools.
- Particularly for the development or renovation of Neighborhood Parks, seek the input of the nearby residents in order to gain an understanding of their needs and to engender a sense of stewardship for the resulting improvements.
- Encourage citizens to volunteer within the parks and recreation system by offering opportunities to be involved in recreational programming, park clean up efforts, habitat restoration and special event support.

There is also a need to inform citizens of the broad scope of activities and services already offered through the parks and recreation system. For example, many residents are not aware of the broad scope of the Greenway system or the multitude of services offered by Community Centers throughout the City. The City is encouraged to conduct an in-depth look at how it is currently disseminating

information to the public regarding recreational opportunities and leisure services; and to craft a strategy that seeks to consistently improve its citizens' understanding of recreational opportunities within the Park system. This will help the City to both alleviate the perceived need for services that are actually available but not well known and clarify what needs are actually unmet. This would likely also result in the added benefit of continually monitoring and improving public relations.

**Goal 5:  
Encourage Intra  
and  
Intergovernmental  
Collaboration**

Objective:

*Continue to pursue additional opportunities to coordinate and cooperate with Wake County, the Wake County Public School System, neighboring municipalities, the State of North Carolina and Federal agencies (e.g. US Army Corps of Engineers and Federal Highway Administration) in the acquisition, development and use of parks and recreational facilities.*

## SCHOOL PARKS

The concept of utilizing Wake County Public School facilities as a partnership opportunity to provide expanded recreation opportunities is a very viable option to help alleviate some of the latent demand for Neighborhood Park type facilities and sports fields. This initiative to collaborate with the school system is not new either to Raleigh or to cities across the nation. The 1990 Raleigh Parks Plan addressed this issue as being increasingly attractive given rising land prices and reduced fiscal resources. The 1990 plan specifically outlined four recommendations as follow:

1. The park list developed in this Plan [1990] should be reviewed with the Wake County School Board: proposed parks near proposed school sites should be considered for combination and joint purchasing.
2. Raleigh should initiate talks with the Wake County School Board to review joint funding, purchase, and development costs.
3. The Parks Department should initiate talks with Wake County School Administration to lease facilities for expanded recreational use staffed either by teachers or summer employees.
4. Raleigh should review proposed Wake County School locations and explore greenway trail links between such schools and existing or proposed parks.

While school parks are a viable option to help alleviate demand for park facilities, further study by the City, in cooperation with the Wake County School Board, is needed. It is recommended that this study include the following:

- Inventory of existing and planned schools within the City ETJ.
- Analysis of each school site to identify under-developed land and the physical characteristics of these lands (e.g. wooded, steep slopes, stream buffers) based on site visits, aerial photos and other digital data.
- Summarization of typical school programming and activities that take place on the existing school grounds.
- Identification of development opportunities and potential delineation of natural areas for specific sites.



- Development of draft site plans for each school site that has the potential to provide athletic field improvements that will allow for City use or other improvements that would allow the site to serve as a Neighborhood Park.

This analysis will likely reveal that many school sites, due to physical site characteristics, placement of school buildings, degree of existing development, or programmatic conflicts with school activities, do not show potential for further improvement to serve the role of Neighborhood Park. Others will show potential for additional athletic fields or field improvements that will enable City use, and thus, help alleviate demand for active recreation in other nearby parks.

This study should be undertaken in collaboration with Wake County Schools; following its completion, opportunities should be jointly pursued to cooperatively enhance both public school recreation and Neighborhood Park opportunities.

## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COMMUNITIES AND AGENCIES

While the City of Raleigh is committed to providing a very broad range of recreational opportunities and the best possible service, it cannot provide every service or facility that residents request. It is important to recognize that parkland and recreation facilities belonging to adjacent communities, as well as County, State and Federal agencies, can often fulfill these needs.

For example, as the Recreation Participation Preference Survey highlights, there is a significant portion of the population that has a very high interest in experiencing nature (i.e. Walking along a Trail, or Viewing Wildlife) that is currently unmet by parks in Raleigh. Some of this unmet need could be satisfied by promoting increased public awareness of recreational opportunities already provided within the City and by nearby entities. However, meeting the unmet needs of the balance of the demand for experiencing nature may require development of additional facilities and programs. A portion of these facilities and programs could be developed by Raleigh independently (e.g. extending trails to establish linkages from Raleigh greenway trails to Umstead and Falls Lake); other facilities and programs could be developed in collaboration with Local, State and Federal agencies that have adjacent property and aligned missions. Both trail building and enhancing interpretive programming are opportunities for partnering that could cost-effectively contribute to satisfying this currently unmet demand for experiencing nature. Two such facilities where this could occur are:

- Umstead State Park, totaling 5,439 acres, located adjacent to the City of Raleigh and connected via the proposed Crabtree Duraleigh Trail and the existing Loblolly Trail offers boating, 11 miles of equestrian and bicycle trails, 20 miles of hiking trails' areas for picnicking, and both family and group camping. The City has historically used these facilities for summer camps and other outings.
- Falls Lake State Recreation Area, with 12,400 acres of water and 25,580 acres of land, is located adjacent to the northeast City limits offers boating, camping, approximately 20 miles of bicycle trails, hiking trails, education programs and wildlife viewing. The City is actively pursuing use of approximately 500 acres for a new Metro Park referred to as Forest Ridge Park. The facility would serve as a gateway to the north end of the Neuse River greenway.
- East of Raleigh, Wake County has been assembling lands for the Little River Reservoir. Long-range plans include using this as a source of drinking water. Opportunities should be explored for identifying recreation sites as well as trail connections to this resource.

It is recommended that wherever possible the City look to accommodate its citizen's demand for these and other recreational experiences by collaborating with other governmental entities. It is further recommended that especially where resource constraints make it necessary and/or opportunities make it desirable, similar partnerships be sought with private entities.

**Goal 6:  
Encourage private  
recreation  
initiatives to  
supplement public  
facilities.**

Objective:

*Explore opportunities to encourage the private sector, both for-profit and not-for-profit, to provide additional depth and breadth of recreational facilities and activities.*

Objective:

*Partner with the private sector to provide recreational needs that the public sector cannot or is not providing.*

## COLLABORATION WITH NON-PROFIT GROUPS, ATHLETIC CLUBS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

As the Facility Needs Analysis and Recommendations by Park Type above reflect, the community desires for significant increases of many recreational facilities may not in all cases be possible or desirable to satisfy with City resources alone. In these instances, it is recommended that the City explore ways in which non-profit groups and athletic organizations can support the City's initiatives to meet the LOS goals set.

Another method that the City is encouraged to explore is the capability of other private entities within the City to provide facilities and programming as identified by the Needs Analysis in order to supplement the City's efforts toward meeting the LOS goals. Private facilities, while not always open to all citizens and often requiring fees of the user (e.g. homeowner's association fees, per use fees, etc.), can and do fulfill some of the current demand for recreational opportunities. These facilities are not counted as existing facilities within the above LOS calculation. Although their use is not immediately reflected within the facilities portion of the LOS, their affect is evident by shorter waiting lists for activities and lower latent demand levels both currently and as related to the development of future activities.